

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 011304

FOLLOWING PARIS 1007 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO GENEVA LONDON
BONN ROME USUN KINSHASA LUSAKA NAIROBI JAN 12; REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 01007

LUSAKA FOR HOROWITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, FR, UK, IT

SUBJECT: QUAI CONFIRMS AGREEMENT WITH US VIEWS ON ILO

REF: A. PARIS 00829; B. PARIS 00969

1. SUMMARY: AT LUNCHEON 11 JANUARY M. JEAN CLAUDE
FORTUIT, WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL AT THE QUAI DEALING
WITH ILO MATTERS WHO WAS PRESENT AT HOROWITZ-SAINT
LEGIER MEETING (REFTEL), TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE THAT
FRANCE UNEQUIVOCALLY SUPPORTS THE US POSITION REGARDING
ILO STRUCTURE AND IS PREPARED TO USE ITS INFLUENCE
TO PREVENT THE AGO FORMULA FROM RECEIVING ANY
SERIOUS ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION. END SUMMARY.

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2. HE ADDED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SENT
TO THE CHIEF OF THE FRENCH MISSION IN GENEVA ADVISING
HIM THAT THE QUAI IS OPPOSED TO THE AGO FORMULA AND IS
EVEN OPPOSED TO ANY DISCUSSION OF IT. QUAI'S THINKING
IS THAT THE MORE THIS FORMULA IS BEING DISCUSSED, THE
MORE PEOPLE BECOME INVOLVED IN IT AND MORE PRESSURES

ARE BEING CREATED FOR SOME SUPPORT FOR IT. THE NET RESULT IS TO MAKE THE FORMULA APPEAR AS A SERIOUS PROPOSITION WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION WHICH IS NOT THE WAY THE QUAI SEES THINGS.

3. FORTUIT EXPLAINED THAT ACCORDING TO THE QUAI THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES MUST KEEP THEIR COOL AND NOT ONLY REFUSE TO BE STAMPEDED BY THE AGITAION OF THE GROUP OF 77, BUT ALSO AVOID THE APPEARANCE OF ALARM LEST THE 77 GET THEIR WAY. ONE WAY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WOULD BE TO RESIST THE APPARENT STRATEGY OF AGO AND THE PEOPLE WHO SHARE HIS VIEWS TO MULTIPLY MEETINGS AND CONSULTATIONS ON THE ILO STRUCTURE SO AS TO CREATE A MOMENTUM AND INEVITABILITY FOR ADOPTING SOME OF THE IDEAS OF THE GROUP OF 77.

4. AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE FOREGOING QUAI STRATEGY, FORTUIT CONFIDED THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO DELARBRE, DEPUTY GOF DELEGATE TO THE ILO, TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE EC-9 MEETING OF 12 JANUARY WAS ACCIDENTAL BECAUSE HE HAPPENED TO BE IN GENEVA FOR THE MEETING OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMITTEE. FURTHERMORE HE HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED THAT IF ASKED ABOUT FRANCE'S POSITION ON THE STRUCTURE QUESTION HE IS TO REPORT ON THE HOROWITZ-SAINT-LEGIER MEETING OF 6 JANUARY (REFTEL) AND TO DECLARE THAT FRANCE SHARES THE US VIEWS ON THIS MATTER, IS OPPOSED TO THE AGO PLAN AND SEES LITTLE USE FOR THE INTERMINABLE DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE BEEN GOING ON ON THIS SUBJECT. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. FORTUIT ADDED THAT IN A FEW DAYS THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO CONFIRM THE FOREGOING TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE THE QUAI WILL LIKE TO LEAVE NO DOUBT IN WASHINGTON REGARDING THE DEGREE TO WHICH GOF SHARES US APPREHENSION ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE AGO PLAN AND APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO THIS QUESTION.

6. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FORTUIT CONFIRMED THAT GOF SEES NO ADVANTAGE IN SEEKING TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION WITHIN THE EC-9 BECAUSE IT KNOWS THAT THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF A UNIFORM EC-9 POSITION. THE SMALLER EC COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NOT PERMANENT GB MEMBERS ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE ATTEMPT TO ABOLISH THE PERMANENT SEAT ARRANGEMENT SINCE THEY SEE THIS AS THE ONLY WAY BY WHICH THEY CAN HOPE TO BE ELECTED ONE DAY TO GB.

7. ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER FRANCE WAS PREPARED TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER BILATERALLY WITH FRG, AS WAS SUGGESTED BY HOROWITZ, SINCE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IF FRANCE AND FRG WERE IN AGREEMENT ITALY AND THE UK COULD BE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW SUIT, FORTUIT DEMURRED. HE EXPLAINED THAT IN THE UN THE GERMANS TEND TO BE "REVISIONISTS" BECAUSE NOT BEING PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THEY HOPE TO IMPROVE THEIR STATUS THROUGH AN OPENING OF THE QUESTION OF THE UN CHARTER. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IN THE INTEREST OF CONSISTENCY WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN THEIR EFFORTS IN THE UN THE GERMANS WOULD BE JUST AS "REVISIONISTS" ON ILO ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NO INTEREST IN DOING SO THERE BECAUSE THEY ARE PERMANENT MEMBERS AND ANY REVISION OF THE ILO CHARTER WOULD BE DEPRIVING THEM OF THAT SPECIAL STATUS. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT FRANCE WOULD CONSIDER APPROACHING BILATERALLY THE FRG

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IF IT CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE US WILL DO LIKEWISE. IN OTHER WORDS, HE CONVEYED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE QUAI WOULD LIKE TO HAVE REASONABLE EXPECTATION THAT ITS APPROACH TO THE FRG WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL BEFORE IT UNDERTOOK ONE.

8. ASKED ABOUT THE IDEA OF POSTPONING WORKING PARTY MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY, FORTUIT SAID THAT TACTICALLY IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO DO SO. POSTPONEMENT OF MEETINGS BY THOSE WHO ARE KNOWN TO OPPOSE THE PROPOSALS ON THE AGENDA IS OFTEN IRRITATING TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS. IN THE FRENCH VIEW THE BEST TACTIC WOULD BE TO GO TO THE 7 FEB MEETING AND SIMPLY AND COOLLY SAY NO TO THE 77. FORTUIT DENIED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION ON THIS PARTICULAR POINT IS INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT GOF IS NOT MEMBER OF THE WORKING PARTY.

9. IN A FINAL CONCLUSION FORTUIT SUMMED UP THE FRENCH POSITION AS ONE IN FAVOR OF 'THE STATUS QUO IN ILO' ALLOWING ONLY FOR OCCASIONAL DISCUSSION OF THIRD WORLD PROPOSALS FOR REVISION. HOWEVER, INTERNAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND ESPECIALLY THE PRESENCE OF CGT PREVENTS GOF FROM ARTICULATING ITS STAND PUBLICLY AND EXPLICITLY. FOR THAT MATTER, ADDED FORTUIT, "THE AMERICANS ALSO, EVEN IF FOR DIFFERENT REASONS, ARE OPERATING UNDER SOME INHIBITIONS IN DEALING WITH THIRD WORLD PROPOSALS IN ILO OR OTHER FORA."

10. AT ONE POINT FORTUIT DREW THE LABOR ATTACHE'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE FOREGOING REPRESENTED

THE GOF POSITION WHICH IS NOT COMPLETELY REFLECTED BY
GABRIEL VENTEJOL EVEN THOUGH HE IS THE GOF DELEGATE
TO THE ILO. AS HE PUT IT, VENTEJOL MUST STILL BE
"BROUGHT AROUND GENTLY" BECAUSE UNDER PERSONAL PRESSURE
FROM AGO AND FORWARD HE SEEMS TO HAVE YIELDED TO THE
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EXTENT OF GOING ALONG WITH THE IDEA THAT THE AGO PLAN
DESERVED A CAREFUL ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION. HE FELT
THAT VENTEJOL IS BASICALLY OPPOSED TO THE PLAN BUT HIS
CONCESSION TO DISCUSS IT IMPLIED A CERTAIN RISK SINCE
IT FACILITATED THE AGO STRATEGY OF CREATING THROUGH
DISCUSSION A CERTAIN CREDIBILITY FOR HIS PLAN.

11. A BIOGRAPHIC NOTE: FORTUIT (41) IS A CAREER
DIPLOMAT WHO TOOK LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO RUN SUCCESSFULLY
IN THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS OF 1968 WHEN HE WAS
ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON A UDR (AT THE TIME)

TICKET IN CORBEIL, A PARIS SUBURB. HE WAS NOT RE-
ELECTED IN 1973 AND RETURNED TO THE QUAI. HE HAS
BEEN ASSIGNED TO ILO AFFAIRS IN OCTOBER 1976.

12. COMMENT: WE WOULD CAUTION THE DEPT AND INFO
ADDRESSEES NOT TO READ TOO MUCH INTO FORTUIT'S COMMENT
ON VENTEJOL. IN ADDITION TO VENTEJOL'S PERSONALITY,
WHICH IS NOT GIVEN TO TAKING HARD STANDS WHICH ARE
LIKELY TO UPSET HIS INTERLOCUTORS, ONE MUST REMEMBER
THAT VENTEJOL COMES FROM THE LABOR MOVEMENT (FORCE
OUVRIERE) WHICH TRADITIONALLY FEELS A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF SYMPATHY FOR THE UNDERDEVELOPED WORLD AND ITS
CLAIM TO A ROLE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE CONVINCED, HOWEVER,
THAT VENTEJOL'S CONCESSION TO AGO (IF THAT TERM DOES
NOT ALREADY OVERSTATE THE CASE) DID NOT GO ANY FURTHER
THAN A TACIT AGREEMENT THAT HIS PLAN RECEIVE A FAIR
HEARING. WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN VENTEJOL WILL BE
ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

13. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD DEPT ADVISE US ON
PARA 7 ABOVE. GAMMON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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